

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of identifying web sites, comprising:
2 identifying at least one functional characteristic to be
3 tested;

4 retrieving content for a web site;
5 testing the content of the web site for the presence of
6 the at least one functional characteristic; and
7 storing the results of the testing of the content of the
8 web site.

1. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one
2 functional characteristic identifies a functional
3 characteristic of web sites that requires a function to be
4 enabled by a client device in order to output the web site
5 content on the client device.

1. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 disabling, in a web browser, the at least one functional
3 characteristic prior to retrieving the content for the web
4 site.

1. The method of claim 3, wherein testing the content of
2 the web site for the presence of the at least one functional
3 characteristic includes determining if a portion of the

4 content is not output by the web browser due to the at least
5 one functional characteristic being disabled.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein storing the results of
2 the testing includes generating an entry in a web site
3 functional characteristics database based on the results of
4 the testing.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one
2 functional characteristic includes at least one of the use of
3 active scripting, a type of active scripting used, a plug-in
4 application used, the use of forms, the storing of cookies on
5 a client device, providing dynamic web page content,
6 providing dynamic user interfaces, displaying digital movies,
7 and broadcasting audio data.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving content for
2 the web site includes generating a list of web sites to be
3 tested, and selecting a next web site in the list of web
4 sites to be tested.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein identifying at least one
2 functional characteristic to be tested includes generating a
3 list of functional characteristics to be tested, and
4 selecting a next functional characteristic in the list of
5 functional characteristics to be tested.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein testing the content of
2 the web site for the presence of the at least one functional
3 characteristic includes for each web site in the list of web
4 site, testing each functional characteristic in the list of
5 functional characteristics.

1 10. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 receiving a search request including a designation of
3 one or more web site functional characteristics;
4 searching the web site functional characteristics
5 database based on the search request; and
6 returning results of searching the web site functional
7 characteristics database to thereby identify zero or more web
8 sites having or not having the designated one or more web
9 site functional characteristics.

1 11. A computer program product in a computer readable medium
2 for identifying web sites, comprising:
3 first instructions for identifying at least one
4 functional characteristic to be tested;
5 second instructions for retrieving content for a web
6 site;
7 third instructions for testing the content of the web
8 site for the presence of the at least one functional
9 characteristic; and
10 fourth instructions for storing the results of the
11 testing of the content of the web site.

1 12. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the at
2 least one functional characteristic identifies a functional
3 characteristic of web sites that requires a function to be
4 enabled by a client device in order to output the web site
5 content on the client device.

1 13. The computer program product of claim 11, further
2 comprising:

3 fifth instructions for disabling, in a web browser, the
4 at least one functional characteristic prior to retrieving
5 the content for the web site.

1 14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the
2 third instructions for testing the content of the web site
3 for the presence of the at least one functional
4 characteristic include instructions for determining if a
5 portion of the content is not output by the web browser due
6 to the at least one functional characteristic being disabled.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the
2 fourth instructions for storing the results of the testing
3 include instructions for generating an entry in a web site
4 functional characteristics database based on the results of
5 the testing.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the at
2 least one functional characteristic includes at least one of
3 the use of active scripting, a type of active scripting used,
4 a plug-in application used, the use of forms, the storing of
5 cookies on a client device, providing dynamic web page
6 content, providing dynamic user interfaces, displaying
7 digital movies, and broadcasting audio data.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the
2 second instructions for retrieving content for the web site
3 include instructions for generating a list of web sites to be
4 tested, and instructions for selecting a next web site in the
5 list of web sites to be tested.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the
2 first instructions for identifying at least one functional
3 characteristic to be tested include instructions for
4 generating a list of functional characteristics to be tested,
5 and instructions for selecting a next functional
6 characteristic in the list of functional characteristics to
7 be tested.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the
2 third instructions for testing the content of the web site
3 for the presence of the at least one functional
4 characteristic include instructions for testing each

5 functional characteristic in the list of functional
6 characteristics for each web site in the list of web sites.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 15, further
2 comprising:

3 fifth instructions for receiving a search request
4 including a designation of one or more web site functional
5 characteristics;

6 sixth instructions for searching the web site functional
7 characteristics database based on the search request; and

8 seventh instructions for returning results of searching
9 the web site functional characteristics database to thereby
10 identify zero or more web sites having or not having the
11 designated one or more web site functional characteristics.

1 21. An apparatus for identifying web sites, comprising:

2 a network interface;

3 a database interface; and

4 a web site content analysis engine coupled to the
5 network interface and the database interface, wherein the web
6 site content analysis engine identifies at least one
7 functional characteristic to be tested, retrieves content for
8 a web site via the network interface, tests the content of
9 the web site for the presence of the at least one functional
10 characteristic, and stores the results of the testing of the
11 content of the web site via the database interface.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the at least one
2 functional characteristic identifies a functional
3 characteristic of web sites that requires a function to be
4 enabled by a client device in order to output the web site
5 content on the client device.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the web site content
2 analysis engine disables, in a web browser, the at least one
3 functional characteristic prior to retrieving the content for
4 the web site.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the web site content
2 analysis engine tests the content of the web site for the
3 presence of the at least one functional characteristic by
4 determining if a portion of the content is not output by the
5 web browser due to the at least one functional characteristic
6 being disabled.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the web site content
2 analysis engine stores the results of the testing by
3 generating an entry in a web site functional characteristics
4 database based on the results of the testing.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the at least one
2 functional characteristic includes at least one of the use of
3 active scripting, a type of active scripting used, a plug-in
4 application used, the use of forms, the storing of cookies on

5 a client device, providing dynamic web page content,
6 providing dynamic user interfaces, displaying digital movies,
7 and broadcasting audio data.

1 27. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the web site content
2 analysis engine retrieves content for the web site by
3 generating a list of web sites to be tested, and selecting a
4 next web site in the list of web sites to be tested.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the web site content
2 analysis engine identifies at least one functional
3 characteristic to be tested by generating a list of
4 functional characteristics to be tested, and selecting a next
5 functional characteristic in the list of functional
6 characteristics to be tested.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the web site content
2 analysis engine tests the content of the web site for the
3 presence of the at least one functional characteristic by,
4 for each web site in the list of web site, testing each
5 functional characteristic in the list of functional
6 characteristics.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising:
2 a search engine coupled to the search request input
3 interface generation device and the search results interface
4 generation device, wherein the search engine receives a

5 search request including a designation of one or more web
6 site functional characteristics, searches the web site
7 functional characteristics database based on the search
8 request, and returns results of searching the web site
9 functional characteristics database to thereby identify zero
10 or more web sites having or not having the designated one or
11 more web site functional characteristics.

1 31. A method of identifying web sites, comprising:

2 receiving a search request including a designation of
3 one or more web site functional characteristics;
4 searching a web site functional characteristics database
5 based on the search request; and
6 returning results of searching the web site functional
7 characteristics database to thereby identify zero or more web
8 sites having or not having the designated one or more web
9 site functional characteristics.

1 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the one or more web site
2 functional characteristics identify functions that are
3 enabled on a client device web browser in order to output the
4 web site content on the client device.

1 33. The method of claim 31, further comprising:

2 charging a fee to an account of a source of the search
3 request for searching the web site functional characteristics
4 database based on the search request.

1 34. The method of claim 31, wherein the one or more web site
2 functional characteristics include at least one of the use of
3 active scripting, a type of active scripting used, a plug-in
4 application used, the use of forms, the storing of cookies on
5 a client device, providing dynamic web page content,
6 providing dynamic user interfaces, displaying digital movies,
7 and broadcasting audio data.

1 35. A data structure having entries corresponding to web
2 sites for use by a computing device to identify web sites
3 based on functional characteristics, each entry comprising:

4 a web site identifier field for identifying a web site;
5 and

6 one or more functional characteristic fields for
7 identifying functional characteristics of the web site
8 identified in the web site identifier field.

1 36. The data structure of claim 35, wherein the functional
2 characteristics identify functions that are enabled on a
3 client device web browser in order to output the web site
4 content on the client device.

1 37. The data structure of claim 35, wherein the functional
2 characteristics include at least one of the use of active
3 scripting, a type of active scripting used, a plug-in
4 application used, the use of forms, the storing of cookies on

5 a client device, providing dynamic web page content,
6 providing dynamic user interfaces, displaying digital movies,
7 and broadcasting audio data.

1 38. The data structure of claim 35, wherein the data
2 structure is stored on a computer readable medium.

1 39. The data structure of claim 38, wherein the computer
2 readable medium is part of a network attached storage unit.

1 40. The method of claim 1, wherein the results of the
2 testing of the content of the web site are stored in a
3 network attached storage unit.

1 41. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the
2 fourth instructions for storing the results of the testing of
3 the content of the web site include instructions for storing
4 the results of the testing in a network attached storage
5 unit.

42. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the web site content
analysis engine stores the results of the testing of the web
site in a database stored on a network attached storage unit.